AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of loading a container with a defined quantity of powder which comprises the steps of

providing a perforated plate in the form of a planar disk having plural perforations arranged in a circular path on the disk, each perforation extending from a first opening in a first side of the disk to a second opening on a second side of the disk; and

a first director blade spaced from the first side of the disk;

the method also comprising the step of:

a) having relative rotary motion of the perforated plate and said first director blade with powder being disposed on the first side of the perforated plate on a first path thereon which is different from the circular path;

and the method further comprising the following steps while there is said relative rotary motion:

b) closing off one of the perforations in the disk by inserting a blanking pin into the perforation through the second opening;

c) directing powder from the first path onto the circular path;

d) directing powder on the circular path into said closed-off perforation by the sweeping action of ~~a~~ the first director blade;

e) compacting said powder in the closed-off perforation by inserting a compacting pin into the closed-off perforation through the first opening; and

f) transferring the compacted powder contents of the perforation to said container through the second opening by withdrawing the blanking pin from the perforation through the second opening to reopen the perforation, placing the container in registration with the second opening and moving the compacting pin towards the second opening to transfer the compacted powder contents into the container.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first director blade is held static and the perforated plate moves in rotary fashion relative thereto.

3 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first director blade presents a forward acute angle to the path of relative motion.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said forward acute angle is between 1 and 60°.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the forward acute angle is between 5 and 25°.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the first director blade presents multiple forward acute angles to the path of relative motion.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the first director blade is curved in form.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the first director blade is articulated in form.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the first director blade has a flat tail section.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a thin layer of powder is left on the perforated plate after movement of the first director blade.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the depth of said thin layer of powder is from 3 to 20 mm.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the depth of said thin layer of powder is from 4 to 8 mm.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the powder is further directed into the perforation by at least one subsequent director blade.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the at least one subsequent director blade moves along the first side of the perforated plate at a lower level than that of the first director blade.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the distance between the level of movement of the first director blade and the at least one subsequent director blade is 0 to 12 mm.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the distance between the level of movement of the first director blade and the at least one subsequent director blade is 1 to 3 mm.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, additionally comprising the step of removing excess powder from said circular path and directing the excess powder back to the first path subsequent to step d).

25. (Original) A method according to claim 24, comprising removing said excess powder by the action of a wiper.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising the further following steps subsequent to step f):

g) i) withdrawing the compacting pin from the perforation through the first opening, and

ii) repeating steps b)-f) at least once more to load another container with a defined quantity of powder.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein directing powder into the closed-off perforation and transfer into the container is a continuous step.

28 - 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the powder is compacted to a volume of between 50 and 100% of the original volume of powder in the closed-off perforation.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 32, wherein the powder is compacted to a volume of between 70 and 90% of the original volume of powder in the closed-off perforation.

34 - 36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the container is a blind cavity.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein the blind cavity is selected from the group consisting of a blister pocket, an injection molded plastic pocket, a capsule and a bulk container.

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, additionally comprising applying a lid to the container to protect the contents therein.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 for loading each of plural blisters arranged in series on an elongate blister strip with a defined quantity of powder, wherein the perforations are arranged in series on the circular path and each perforation is associated with its own blanking pin and compacting pin and wherein the method comprises:

closing off each perforation with its associated blanking pin in step b) ;

directing powder into each closed-off perforation in step d) by the sweeping action of the first director blade;

compacting said powder in each closed-off perforation in step e) by inserting the associated compacting pin into the closed-off perforation through the first opening; and

transferring the compacted powder contents from the second opening of each of perforation to a corresponding blister of said elongate blister strip in step f) by withdrawing the associated blanking pin from each perforation through the second opening and moving the associated compacting pin towards the second opening.

41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 40, wherein in step f) each perforation of the perforated plate is serially brought into registration with the corresponding blister of the blister strip.

42. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein at registration the perforated plate is rotating and the blister strip is moving on a linear path.

43. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the powder comprises a medicament.

44. (Original) A method according to claim 43, wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of albuterol, salmeterol, fluticasone propionate and beclomethasone dipropionate and salts or solvates thereof and any mixtures thereof.

45 - 87. (Cancelled)

Please add the following new Claims

88. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein step c) is carried out by the action of a wiper.

89. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 40, wherein each of steps b), d), e) and f) are performed serially on the perforations.

90. (Currently amended) A method of loading each of plural blisters arranged in series on an elongate blister strip with a defined quantity of powder, which comprises providing

a perforated plate in the form of a planar disk having plural perforations arranged in series on a circular path on the disk, each perforation extending from a first opening in a first side of the disk to a second opening in a second side of the disk;

a plurality of blanking pins and compacting pins, arranged such that and each perforation of said perforated plate is associated with its own blanking pin and compacting pin; and

a first director blade spaced from the first side of the disk;

wherein the method also comprising the steps of:

a) having relative rotary motion of the perforated plate and said first director blade with powder being disposed on the first side of the perforated plate on a first path thereon which is different from the circular path; and

the method further comprising the following steps while there is said relative rotary motion:

b) closing off each of the perforations in the disk by inserting an associated blanking pin into the perforation through the second opening;

c) directing powder from the first path onto the circular path;

d) directing powder on the circular path into each said closed-off perforation by the sweeping action of ~~a~~ the first director blade;

e) compacting said powder in each closed-off perforation by inserting an associated compacting pin into the closed-off perforation through the first opening;

f) transferring the compacted powder contents of the ~~perforation~~ perforations from the second opening of each perforation to a corresponding blister of said elongate blister strip by

i) withdrawing the associated blanking pin from each perforation through the second opening to reopen the perforation,

ii) placing the ~~container~~ blister in registration with the second opening, and

iii) moving the compacting pin towards the second opening to transfer the compacted powder contents into the blister ~~container~~;

and

g) withdrawing the compacting pin from the perforation through the first opening

wherein each of steps b), d), e) and f) and g) are performed serially on the perforations.